



Out Rawcliffe Church of England School

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6th December 2012

Dear Ms Mappin

Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Out Rawcliffe Church of England Primary School

Thank you for your letter, dated 23rd November 2012, requesting additional information on our plan to secure the future of the school.

Firstly this letter confirms that Out Rawcliffe CEPS Governors are committed to enter into a soft federation with Melling (St Wilfrid) CEPS through the sharing of a collaborative Headteacher - Mrs Geraldine Andrews. A second letter is enclosed from the Governing body of Melling (St Wilfrid) CEPS confirming their commitment to enter into a soft federation with Out Rawcliffe CEPS. Since September, both schools have already benefited from our collaboration, with Out Rawcliffe children visiting Melling and then both schools coming together for a Victorian themed educational visit. Entering into a permanent soft federation will strengthen both of our schools.

An indication of a strategy around the delivery of education to pupils in both schools, given the distance between the schools, is attached. The actual distance between our schools is not significant in the proposed arrangements, especially since the majority of the journey is on A-roads and motorway, a journey of approximately 40 minutes. Experience has shown that schools do not have to be close to have a successful effective collaboration, for example Winmarleigh Primary School and Bleasdale C of E Primary School which are separated by 10 miles of very rural roads, a 30 minute journey in summer but a much longer and sometimes very difficult journey in winter. On our recent visit to Melling School the conversations on the outward journey prepared the children for the day ahead and on the return journey cemented what had been learnt. The enthusiasm with which the children talked about their shared day was in contrast to conversations following past visits to other larger schools and this confirmed to us the compatibility of our two schools.

Finally information is attached which clearly indicates how our proposals would address the financial situation resulting from the budget deficit at Out Rawcliffe CE School, putting the budget back into positive figures. The financial plan also addresses aspects for improving the quality of teaching and therefore pupil learning. Looking to the future, once our recovery plan has been implemented and our financial situation secured, our proposed nursery unit, which has encouraged an increased interest from within the area, should help create a larger influx of pupils which in turn will allow us to expand our teacher ratio.

We hope that you will look favourably on our plans.

Peter Jones

Chair of Governors
on behalf of Out Rawcliffe CEPS Governing body.